

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7322

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, AR (ERB, PATRICIA ANN)

SUBJECT: W/W: ARREST OF PATRICIA ANN ERB

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 6307, (B) SMITH-RONDON TELECON OF SEPT 28,
1976

1. AT APPROXIMATELY 1300 HOURS SEP 28 OFFICERS OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY INFORMED POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT
PATRICIA ERB WAS ALIVE AND WELL, AND BEING HELD AT CENTRAL
POLICE HEADQUARTERS BELLA VISTA, A SMALL TOWN IN BUENOS AIRES
PROVINCE. HE ALSO STATED THAT PATRICIA BEING HELD UNDER
STATE OF SEIGE AND WOULD BE EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY AND
THAT CONSULAR ACCESS COULD BE OBTAINED THAT AFTERNOON.

2. CONOFF VISITED PATRICIA EVENING SEP 28 IN BELLA VISTA
POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE. CONOFF AND PATRICIA WERE ONLY PEOPLE
PRESENT IN ROOM.

3. CONOFF FOUND PATRICIA IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS.
DURING INTERVIEW SHE WAS RELAXED, NOT SHY AND SMILED
EASILY. SHE SHOWED LITTLE FEAR OF HER CAPTORS
ALTHOUGH SHE STATED THAT SHE HAD BEEN AFRAID THAT
SHE WOULD HAVE EVENTUALLY BEEN KILLED.

4. THERE WAS NO PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL EVIDENCE
OF MISTREATMENT. PATRICIA STATED THAT SHORTLY AFTER
ARREST SHE WAS INTENSIVELY INTERROGATED FOR APPROXIMATELY
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ONE HOUR AND THAT ELECTRIC PRODS WERE USED. SHE SAID

ASIDE FROM THIS INTERROGATION SHE WAS NOT PHYSICALLY ABUSED DURING HER DETENTION. SHE ALSO STATED THAT SHE WAS NOT SEXUALLY MOLESTED AT ANY TIME.

5. PATRICIA STATED THAT SHE COOPERATED FULLY IN PROVIDING CAPTORS WITH INFORMATION REGARDING HER PAST POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. SHE ALSO SAID THAT UNTIL ONE MONTH AGO SHE HAD BEEN ACTIVE MEMBER OF "JUVENTUD GUEVARISTA" SUBVERSIVE YOUTH GROUP.

6. GOA OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THAT THEY ARE TAKING ACTION TO EXPEL PATRICIA FROM ARGENTINA. EMBASSY WILL INFORM DEPT. AS SOON AS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE.
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